

March 1, 1962

Dear General Clay:

My brother has just come back to Washington, and his first report is of your outstanding kindness to him and to his wife during their visit to Berlin. He is sure that with your help it was valuable also for Berlin. So I hasten to send my personal thanks.

We have been watching with close attention the developing situation in the air corridors, and I am impressed by the alertness and coolness of all Americans who are dealing directly with this problem. I know that your own determined presence and quick counsel have been of great importance in this episode as in others since your arrival in Berlin. I want you to know that I have a standing instruction that your cables of comment and advice shall invariably be reported to me, and on a number of occasions a cable from you has led me to order a review of policy or a new and somewhat different emphasis in existing activities. In the press of business and the welter of pressures, the immediate relation between the watchmen's reports and the Washington reaction is often unclear, especially at a distance, but I do want you to know that we continue to count on you -- as much in the moments of relative calm as in those of immediate tension.

Now that my brother is back, I find Max Taylor preparing to go off, and I begin to wonder whether you do not grow weary of Washington visitors. But Max will be coming with my particular instruction to take a measure of the whole position in Western Europe, and I know he is looking forward particularly to a chance to review it

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all with you. If there are any matters which you have not felt able to put in your cables that you would like to raise with me, I will count on you to discuss them most openly with him.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

K/John Kennedy

The Honorable Lucius Clay  
Special Representative of the President  
U. S. Mission, Berlin